

NEWS RELEASE



***OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
San Diego, California***

***United States Attorney
Carol C. Lam***

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For Immediate Release

NEWS RELEASE SUMMARY - October 18, 2004

United States Attorney Carol C. Lam announced that CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL HAFER and CHRISTIAN ALBERTO VEGA-ACEVES pled guilty today in federal district court before United States District Court Judge William Q. Hayes to charges filed in connection with their roles in bribing a public official.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Jason M. Ohta, who is prosecuting the case, in connection with their guilty pleas HAFER and VEGA-ACEVES both admitted they gave \$500.00 to a United States Customs and Border Protection officer as partial payment of a \$2,500.00 bribe, with the intent to persuade the officer to allow HAFER to transport one illegal alien from Mexico into the United States through the officer's lane at the San Ysidro, California, Port of Entry.

United States Attorney Lam said, "The defendant tried and failed to bribe a federal officer, and we commend that Customs and Border Protection officer for his integrity."

United States Attorney Lam also praised the efforts of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Professional Responsibility Special Agents, who conducted the investigation in this case.

Sentencing for HAFER and VEGA-ACEVES is scheduled for January 7, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., before Judge Hayes.

DEFENDANTS

CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL HAFER

CHRISTIAN ALBERTO VEGA-ACEVES

SUMMARY OF CHARGE

Title 18, U.S.C. §201(b)(1)(C) - Bribery of Public Official.

The charge of bribery of public official carries a maximum penalty of fifteen years of imprisonment and a maximum \$250,000 fine. This charge also carries a mandatory \$100 special assessment and a maximum of five years of supervised release.

AGENCIES

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Professional Responsibility

Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Office of Investigations, Human Trafficking Group

Department of Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection